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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Kalininograd Oblast)

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SUBJECT Defense Installations in Danzig Bay

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1. On 12 December 1950 a cruiser and a destroyer were sighted west of the approach to Baltiisk (54-40N, 19-54E). They were too far away to distinguish their designations but the cruiser resembled the former German Nuernberg, to judge by the antenna on the stack and the battle mast. The destroyer was a Soviet type and was at least as large as the former German destroyer, the Narvik.
2. There is intense construction activity in Baltiisk, particularly at the site of the former seaplane base on the Frische Nehring. The many new smokestacks there testify to the large amount of industrial construction which is taking place there. At night the place is lit up like a busy industrial center. It is rumored among fishermen that there is a rocket weapons base near the town.
3. The course into the harbor is the same as previously except that the course is marked by different buoys. There are four buoys on the seaward side of the "Baltiisk" channel light buoy. It is not advisable for West German fishermen to enter the harbor and even East German fishermen avoid it on account of the difficulties and close supervision. Soviet police board incoming vessels at the approach buoy in order to prevent close observation of the harbor by those on board. The same practice holds for outgoing vessels.
4. A close radar watch is kept at Bruster Ort and any ships approaching within the twelve-mile limit are brought up. Ships outside the twelve-mile limit have also been accosted and their captains made to sign statements that they had been stopped within the forbidden zone. After the statements had been signed the vessels were escorted by the Soviets into the open sea.\*
5. No defense installations were observed on the coast near Kahlberg. The former German 150 mm battery near Hela is rumored to be in

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position again. It was not visible from the sea but this condition also applied at the time the Germans were in control there.<sup>22</sup> The compulsory entrances to Gdynia and Danzig remain the same as formerly.

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[redacted] Comment: There were formerly German artillery emplacements on the Gdansk coast directly north of Baltiisk. They served as antiaircraft and barrage batteries. Near Bruster Ort there were heavy railway guns and various firing emplacements. These defenses secured the southern end of the Bruster Ort - Gdansk defense system.

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[redacted] Comment: The strategic location and climate of the Baltiisk Bruster Ort area make it an important naval base of operations for the Soviets in case of war. Baltiisk is of special value as a naval base of operations for light combat craft up to cruisers and also as an operational harbor for material for an immediate naval front. The frequent reports of Soviet submarines being stationed there seem credible.

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